

If what I hear is true regarding Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election then I think action needs to be taken. With the consolidation of media companies that has been allowed to happen in recent years, the public is in danger of getting their news from biased sources who have their own personal agenda. The FCC needs to flex what power they have to control and stop this type of activity.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. It is critically important that equal airtime is given to all candidates and that news organizations are not allowed to be influenced by owners or others to slant stories that benefit those of their choosing. When companies are allowed to decide what is aired, they are going to be more concerned about the big headlines and what "sells." The sense of community is being eroded away and with mass conglomerate media corporations controlling all the programming, news and local programming (if there are any), this only furthers this erosion. News needs to come from local outlets so people are aware of what is happening in their communities and can remain informed.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.